

## **Appendix O: National Park Service Partnership Programs in Virginia**

In addition to units of the National Park Service and National Heritage Areas, NPS enhances the capacity of states, communities and private organizations through its partnership programs. The following programs assist agencies, non-profits, and the private sector to protect natural and cultural resources, and to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, wellness activities, tourism and education.

### **American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)**

ABPP fosters opportunities for stewardship of historic battlefields through grants and technical assistance that support public and private partners in identifying, evaluating and planning for preservation. Twelve grants in ten states were awarded \$387,975 in the national 2004 grant round. Two of the twelve awardees are for Virginia Battlefields: to Buckland Preservation Society for the Buckland Mills Battlefield and to Radford University for the Saltville Battlefields.

### **Chesapeake Bay Program**

The Northeast and National Capital Regions have established a Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis to help advance conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay Program Office serves to: coordinate NPS participation in the multi-state Chesapeake Bay Program; help parks model Bay-friendly environmental management; create visible, accessible connections between people and the Bay; and foster individual and community involvement in Bay conservation and restoration. This occurs through a variety of initiatives and projects, including the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Water Trails Network and the Chesapeake Watershed Assistance Program described below.

### **Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Water Trails Network**

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Water Trails Network is a system of sites providing opportunities to enjoy, learn about and help conserve the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Included in the Network are diverse natural, cultural, historical and recreational sites, museums, parks, refuges, water trails, and interpretive and orientation facilities. In Virginia there are 43 sites and 9 water trails included in the network. In 2005, grants through the Gateways Program to communities in Virginia totaled \$384,000. (For more information: [www.baygateways.net](http://www.baygateways.net))

### **Chesapeake Watershed Assistance Program**

Chesapeake Watershed Assistance Program (CWAP) was established in 2003, as a collaboration between the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Program (RTCA), and the states of MD, VA, and PA. The purpose of the initiative was to support local watershed management efforts throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. With funding from EPA and staff support from NPS, assistance is provided to local watershed stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of a watershed management plans. The planning process serves as a forum to address local resource needs, resolve difficult water quality and land use issues, and increase the effectiveness and capabilities of participating citizens and organizations.

To date CWAP has supported 3 projects in Virginia: Hawksbill Creek Watershed Plan; Lynn Haven Watershed Plan, and Chesterfield County Watershed Assistance.

### **Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP)**

The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks Program helps communities create new parks and recreation areas by transferring surplus Federal land, at no cost, to state and local governments. The FLP is the only programmatic means for a state or local agency to acquire this land for public recreation at no cost and all transferred land is dedicated to and must remain in public recreational use in perpetuity.

Since 1949, 38 properties totaling 5,294 acres appraised at over \$32 million were conveyed in Virginia; they include: Huntley Meadows Park, Lake Accotink Park, and Great Falls Park in Fairfax county; Bennetts Creek Park in Suffolk; Locust Shade Park in Prince William County; and New Quarter Park in York County. The most recent transfers are the 115-acre portion of the Lorton Correctional Complex in Fairfax County, a 136.57-acre second parcel at the closing Naval Radio Transmitting Facility in Suffolk, and the 18.5-acre portion of Vint Hill Farms Station in Fauquier County. The appraised value of these three properties is \$10,000,000, \$550,000, and \$955,500, respectively. They were deeded to the Fairfax County Park Authority, the City of Suffolk, and to Fauquier County and will be developed as regional parks.

### **Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER)**

05 - HABS/HAER/HALS is an integral component of the federal government's commitment to historic preservation. Through this program, NPS ensures that a uniform and thorough record (including measured drawings, written histories and large-format photographs) is made of all nationally significant resources that are affected by federal undertakings. These records are then stored in the Library of Congress where they contribute to the memory of our national history. Recently, various structures at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, and Washington Dulles International Airport complex in Herdon underwent this process.

### **Historic Surplus Property**

This program allows state, county and local governments to obtain surplus federal properties at no cost if the property is listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Historic properties transferred by General Services Administration (GSA) under this program may be used for public facilities, such as museums and government offices. Properties can also be leased to non-profit organizations and to developers who may be eligible to take advantage of federal preservation tax incentives for historic buildings. NPS assists the GSA with the property transfer and plays an important role in ensuring the building is properly rehabilitated and maintained. Successful transfers in Virginia include the New Point Comfort Lighthouse in Mathews County.

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund Program**

The LWCF program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Since

1966, the L&WCF contributed \$79 million to parks and open space in Virginia. The funds have been used for commonwealth parks as well as those managed by municipal and county governments. Recently projects have ranged from campgrounds at James River State Park and boating facilities at Leesylvania State Park, to development of sports fields, picnic areas, and trails at Page County's first county-owned park.

The FY 2006 Department of the Interior appropriations bill (P.L. 109-55) appropriated \$27,994,976 for LWCF state grants after two across-the-board reductions. Virginia received a LWCF apportionment of \$762,273. This 50-50 matching grant program is administered by Virginia DCR. All sites funded with L&WCF assistance are protected in perpetuity from conversion to non-recreation use under Section 6(f) of the L&WCF Act.

### **Monument Research & Preservation Program**

The NPS provides assistance in the care and interpretation of public sculpture and monuments. NPS staff has provided monument preservation advice to the City of Charlottesville. In addition, NPS designed a new monument to Booker T. Washington at the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy.

### **National Historic Landmarks**

Virginia is home to 117 of the nearly 2300 National Historic Landmarks designated nationwide. NPS works closely with Virginia Landmark stewards by monitoring NHL conditions, offering technical and funding assistance, and working on the biennial report to Congress on threatened NHLs. NPS is currently working on designations for the themes of Underground Railroad history and Earliest Americans archeology. In 2002, the NHL Program completed a reuse plan for the 1939 Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville. It was there in 1951 that a student strike protesting unequal educational facilities for African Americans led to a lawsuit that became part of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court Case. A private not-for-profit corporation was established to redevelop the property as a center for the study of civil rights in education.

### **National Natural Landmarks**

The National Natural Landmarks program supports voluntary preservation of sites that illustrate the geological and ecological history of the United States. There are 10 NNLs in Virginia from Luray Caverns to the Great Dismal Swamp. The Commonwealth owns three of them: Caledon State Park, Steirly Natural Area and the Seashore Natural Area. NPS staff provide technical assistance through management and planning recommendations, at the request of landowners, and in some cases, can assist NNL owners in obtaining small grants.

### **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)**

RTCA helps state and local governments, communities and organizations develop trails and greenways, conserve rivers and watersheds, and achieve other conservation objectives. Since 2001, RTCA staff have supported the following projects in Virginia:

- Algonquin Trace Water Trail
- Appomattox Heritage and Recreation Trail
- BikeWalk Virginia Strategic Plan

Central Shenandoah Regional Greenways and Trails  
Carvins Cove Management Plan  
Central Virginia Greenway and Blueway  
Dinwiddie County Battlefield Trails  
Fluvanna County Heritage Preservation  
Farmville Greenway and Trails  
Franklin County Greenway  
James River Sojourn and Water Trail  
Northern Neck Conservation Initiative  
Middle Peninsula Conservation Initiative  
Potomac Heritage Trail Local Assistance  
Rivanna River Water Trail  
Roanoke Valley Blue Ridge Parkway Trail Network  
Tobacco Heritage Trail  
Town Run Linear Park and Green Circle Initiative  
Shenandoah Blueway  
Shenandoah Pure Water Forum and Sojourn  
Virginia Capital Trail  
Winchester-Frederick County Bike-Pedestrian Plan

RTCA has supported six cross-state projects: The Atlantic Crest Trail, East Coast Greenway, Grand History Trail, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, Potomac Water Trail, and Russell Fork River Greenway. In addition, RTCA played a key role in various conferences and research initiatives including the Virginia Greenways, Blueways & Trails Conferences held in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2005; BikeWalk Virginia Conferences in 2002, 2003, and 2004; Southside Virginia Regional Rails-to-Trails Forum in 2004; as well as the Virginia Healthy Pathways Coalition, Virginia Green Infrastructure Advisory Committee, and the Economic Impact Study of Trails in Virginia.

#### **Save America's Treasures and Challenge Cost Share Programs**

NPS provides 50-50 matching grants to partner groups through these two programs. Save America's Treasures funds projects that preserve and conserve nationally significant historic artifacts, structures and sites. The Challenge Cost Share Program provides funding for preserving and interpreting natural, recreational and cultural resources. Projects may be inside or outside park boundaries. One recent project involved Dodona Manor in Leesburg, Virginia, which is also the George C. Marshall International Center, a non-profit organization devoted to preserving and fostering the legacy of George C. Marshall and the principles of the Marshall Plan.

#### **Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program**

The UPARR program was established in November 1978 by Public Law 95-625, authorizing \$725 million to provide matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities. The purpose of the program is to provide direct Federal assistance to urban localities for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. Past recipients of UPARR grants in Virginia include City of Charlottesville (\$500,000) to rehabilitate its 68 year old Downtown Recreation Center,

City of Hampton (\$210,000) to reopen the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Hampton Roads; and the City of Richmond (\$194,950) to rehabilitate its Thomas B. Smith Recreation Center, a 30 year old building that was at risk of closure due to health and safety issues. Congress passed and the President signed the consolidated appropriations package (P.L. 108-108) which eliminated funding for new UPARR grants in FY 2004.

### **National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program**

Created by an act of Congress in 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act calls on the nation to preserve select rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other important values in free-flowing condition. Rivers in this national system are protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers are a subset of this national system, and are rivers that flow through private lands and lands owned by state and local governments.

Most recently, the Upper New River Wild and Scenic River Study was authorized by the Congress and the President to determine whether an approximately 20-mile section of the New River straddling the Virginia/West Virginia border should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.